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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5555  
INFO RUCNSCO/UNESCO COLLECTIVE  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS

UNCLAS LISBON 000370

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STATE FOR IO/UNESCO SAMUEL BROCK; IO/UNESCO CHAD ABEL-KOPS;  
L/UNA DAVID SULLIVAN; EB/TPP/MTA CHEVER VOLTMER; EUR/WE  
KEVIN OPSTRUP

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: PORTUGAL TO CONSIDER STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING  
WHEN RATIFYING CULTURAL DIVERSITY CONVENTION

REF: STATE 06163

¶1. On February 1, Pol/Econ Officer delivered reftel demarche to Maria do Ceu Faria, Political Analyst in the MFA's Office of International Organizations. Despite press reports that the Ministry of Culture called for the rejection of a "universal monoculture," Faria denied that protectionism was behind Parliament's approval to ratify the Convention. However, Faria did not elaborate on Portugal's motivation when pressed.

¶2. Faria noted that the GOP had not set a date to release its instruments of ratification and said that it would consider the USG's proposal to submit a "statement of understanding" when ratifying the Convention. Post has forwarded a copy of Mexico's statement for reference.

Hoffman